(a) whether it is a fact that developmental activities in Adivasi and tribal areas have been adversely affected as a result of implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would consider to make the Act a bit flexible so that developmental activities in Adivasi and tribal areas remain unaffected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Forests provide several usufructs in meeting the sustenance and livelihood needs of the tribals including food during lean period. Regulation of diversion of forest to non-forestry activity is in the long term interest of the tribal and local communities. Therefore, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 helps in safeguarding interests of the Adivasis and tribals rather than adversely affecting them. The Act has adequate flexibility to allow the activities that are for the welfare of the tribal community without causing irreparable damage to the forest eco-system.

The Act being regulatory and not prohibitory in nature is flexible enough to allow important developmental activities on forest lands and as such no change or amendment in the Act is contemplated.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Competitive Bidding at IASRI

2735. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any circular/communication from Central Vigilance Commission advising Government departments that works exceeding a particular amount shall be executed by inviting competitive open tenders;

(b) whether the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is following this advise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether horticultural work in IASRI is done through private contract from 1998-99 onwards, without calling quotations; and

(e) if so, the expenditure incurred on this work during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Non-Implementation of Marine Regulations Act

2736. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-implementation of Marine Regulation Act had been causing severe loss to fishermen in certain States like Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in the matter to contain nation-wide stir by the fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fall in farmgate seed prices

2737. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil seeds growers are facing the falling farmgate prices;

(b) if so, the action taken to support the oil seed prices; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Ministry to face the challenges and equip itself with global competitiveness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, generally there is a declining trend in respect of prices of certain oilseeds.